

## **CALFED Bay-Delta Program Draft Alternatives**

### **Introduction**

This working document presents the current version of draft alternatives developed by the CALFED Bay-Delta Program staff and consultants for review by the Program Coordination Team representatives. Development of these alternatives follows many months of work to define the following: problems to be addressed in the Bay-Delta system; the Program mission, goals, and objectives; potential actions to resolve the problems; and preliminary alternatives. During this time, four workshops and five public meetings have been held to solicit input from the public and agencies.

The twenty draft alternatives described here are to be considered a work in progress. These alternatives will be further refined and improved based on input from the Program Coordination Team, BDAC, Public Workshop #5, and CALFED. Equally important, the performance measures (currently being developed by the Program) and the six solution principles defined in the early planning steps will be used to improve and refine the alternatives.

The Program staff is eager to hear your comments on these alternatives. In your review, please keep the following issues in mind:

1. The Program staff and consultants have developed a set of core actions to be included as part of all alternatives. These core actions are generally believed to provide a benefit to the Bay-Delta system and enjoy broad acceptance among all stakeholder groups. The core set includes actions that make progress toward each of the four primary objectives. Each of the core actions is described briefly near the end of this document.
2. In developing these alternatives, the team has started to create balanced, equitable alternatives. However, full balance and equity will not be achieved until the level of implementation is defined for each of the actions in an alternative. This refinement will be developed over the next several weeks. Your comments on the level of implementation for actions will assist the team in refining the alternatives.
3. Though the team recognizes the potential need for extensive mitigation work, only a few actions to mitigate significant anticipated impacts have been included at this time. The team has started to balance the benefits within an alternative and consider significant impacts. The team

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has also acknowledged some significant impacts in a brief discussion of the constraints and concerns associated with each alternative.

4. We are continuing to add detail to the solution principles developed earlier in our process. A copy of the solution principles including new draft criteria is provided at the back of this binder.

Since the draft alternatives are work in progress, there are several unresolved issues on which we are continuing work:

- performance measures and solution principles have not yet been applied.
- costs of implementation have not yet been considered.
- there are still some inconsistencies between the one page summaries of each alternative, the more detailed writeups, and the attached matrix showing approaches and emphasis of each alternative; (the detailed writeups and the matrix are currently the most consistent).
- not all benefits have been listed in the writeups; (e.g. some show habitat benefits only to the environment and do not mention the benefits to water supply from reduced conflicts with ESA).
- there is too much reference to export diversions rather than the broader category including all diversions.
- the alternatives still need additional balancing between the four resource areas.

Please try to look beyond these and focus on how the alternatives are similar and how they differ. We are looking for a set of alternatives that represents a complete range of feasible approaches to meet the objectives for the Bay-Delta system and the expectations of the stakeholder interests.

Your comments on the following question areas would help guide the Program in developing a more refined set of alternatives for public distribution in early February:

1. Does this set of alternatives represent a complete range of feasible approaches to meet the objectives for the Bay-Delta system and the expectations of stakeholder interests? Are there other alternatives or major approaches that might be effective but that are not currently included among these alternatives?
2. Does each of these alternatives represent a balanced approach to meeting Program objectives? Does each alternative provide comparable benefits in each of the four resource areas (Ecosystem Quality, Water Supply Reliability, Water Quality, and System Vulnerability)? If not, what actions would you add or modify for a particular alternative to improve its balance? Do you have general or specific comments on the level of implementation of any actions?